GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:597
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
PACKAGING OF FOODGRAINS IN JUTE BAGS
Trivedi Shri Dinesh

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the key features of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987;

(b) whether the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has allowed the State Government of Punjab and Food Corporation of India (FCI) for packaging of foodgrains in plastic bags, if so, the details thereof and the reaction of his Ministry;

(c) the steps being taken by his Ministry to ensure that State Governments and FCI procure the appropriate number of jute bags for packaging as per the provision of Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987; and

(d) the initiatives taken by the Government for the growth and development of jute industry in the country including the funds allocated for the purpose during the 12th Plan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO fdI OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 597 TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.05.2015.

(a): The Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 (JPM Act) came into operation with effect from 9th May, 1987. It provides for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interest of production of raw jute and jute packaging material and of persons engaged in the production thereof, and for matters connected therewith. The key features of the JPM Act, 1987 are as under :

Section 4(1): Provides for the constitution of a Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) by the Central Government to advise the Central Government with a view to determine the commodity or class of commodities or percentages thereof in respect of which jute packaging material shall be used.

Section 4(2): The SAC shall indicate its recommendations on the norms of packaging in jute materials to the Central Government after considering the following matters.-

a) the existing level of the usage of jute materials;
b) the quantity of raw jute available;
c) the quantity of jute material available;
d) the protection of interests of persons engaged in the jute industry and in the production of raw jute;
e) the need for continued maintenance of the jute industry;
f) such other matters as the Standing Advisory Committee may think fit.

Section 3(1): The Central Government after considering the recommendations of the SAC, may from time to time, issue an order (published in the official Gazette) for the compulsory use of jute packaging material for certain commodities or class of commodities or percentages thereof, if it is satisfied that it is necessary to do so in the interest of production of raw jute and jute packaging material.

Section 3(2): Every order made under section 3(1) is to be laid before each House of Parliament for a total period of 30 days and the Parliament has the power to modify, nullify such order.

(b): No. Madam.

(c): For assessing the requirement of packaging material for each Marketing Season, Department of Food & Public Distribution coordinates with Ministry of Textiles, Jute Commissioner, Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals (DGS&D), all State Governments and Food Corporation of India (FCI) Limited and finalizes month-wise supply plan of packaging material. The State Governments place indents as per supply plan to DGS&D for timely supply of jute bags for packaging as per the provisions of Jute

Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987.

(d): Apart from the implementation of the JPM Act, Government of India has taken up various steps for the growth and development of jute industry in the country. Some of these steps are as under:

i) The Jute Technology Mission (JTM) [2007-2013] was launched as a major initiative for the overall development of jute industry and the growth of jute sector with a total outlay of Rs.355.55 crores. Under the JTM, several schemes were operational under the Mini Mission I, II, III & IV for the overall growth of jute sector. Mini Mission-I aimed towards strengthening agriculture research and development in jute sector for improving the yield and quality. Mini Mission-11 targeted transfer of

2 improved technology and agronomic practices in production and post harvesting phase. Under Mini-Mission- III, market linkage of raw jute was provided in all jute growing states. Mini Mission-IV provided for the modernization of jute industry, upgradation of skills, market promotion and exports which help increase demand of raw jute.

ii) Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to encourage farmers to grow more jute.

iii) The Govt, of India encourages extensive research in jute in order to increase production of Jute Diversified Products (JDPs) and promotion of Jute Geotextiles (JGT), which is one of the most important diversified jute products w`ith huge potential to have large scale application. National Jute Board (NJB), a statutory body under this Ministry explores new market avenues for boosting use of jute goods to promote /increase the use of jute/jute products in the country and abroad. NJB regularly organises trade fairs in India and abroad to explore new markets for boosting use of jute goods.

iv) As the jute industry is predominantly located in West Bengal, through various communications, the Ministry of Textiles has taken up the following issues with the Chief Secretary/Chief Minister of Government of West Bengal:

Effective implementation of Jute Packaging Material Act, 1987 (JPM Act) for the packaging of rice and paddy in Bengal to generate additional demand for jute products.

Introduce mandatory packing of potatoes and other vegetables in the state in jute hessian bags.

Promote use of jute.as geo-textiles in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) roads, district roads and State Highways, in river embankments and in slop stabilization.

Evolve better agronomic practices in cultivation of jute.

Extend support under the Revival Scheme of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) Limited, and to help draw up a road map for utilizing the surplus land of closed jute mills of NJMC for textile related activities.

Remove the encroachments from the land of Birds Jute & Export Limited (BJEL) at South Dumdum municipality and grant necessary permission for alternate use/disposal of the land.

(v) Non plan funds are allocated to National Jute Board (NJB) for promotion of Jute Industry and its diversification. For the year 2015-16, a sum of Rs.55.19 crores has been allocated to National Jute Board under the non-plan.